

High School Grade Assignment for Accountability Calculations *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*

State and federal laws require the administration of a high school summative assessment, this is known in Michigan as the Michigan Merit Examination, or MME. The administration of the MME is expected to occur for all students in their 11th grade (3rd year) of high school. The grade level assigned to a student and in which they are participating must also be reflected in the Michigan Student Data System, or MSDS as the grade in which they are enrolled.

Michigan's testing policy ensures that all students take the high school assessments, meeting participation requirements in state and federal law, while also having the assessment occur at the same point in time in a high school student's grade progression such that no high schools are given an unfair advantage by testing their students at a later point in their high school career. That said, although most students take the assessment and are included in a school's accountability calculations in 11th grade, there are some specific exceptions to this. Please note that 12th grade students are expected to take the high school assessments if they have not previously counted in accountability calculations or do not meet any exception criteria described in the FAQs below.

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) below provide details regarding some of the nuances or exceptions to the 11th grade testing policy.

1. Are 12th grade students expected to take the MME?

A: In 2020-21 and 2021-22, as part of United States Department of Education (USED) waivers due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all grade 12 students were exempted from MME testing. However, in 2022-23 those waivers are no longer in effect and normal testing policies have resumed. As such, 12th grade students that have not previously tested or been included in accountability calculations will once again be expected to test as in pre-COVID years. This includes students that might have repeated 11th or 12th grades in one or more of the two years where the accountability and participation COVID waivers applied. Schools may search the [OEAA Secure Site](#) to check a student's test history.

2. Is a student from out-of-state who enters the state for the first time as a 12th grade student expected to test?

A: No. A student who moves into the state during the summer or during their 12th grade year, and who was not enrolled in a Michigan school in the year prior, is not expected to test. If they appear in your list of accountable students that were not tested on the OEAA Secure Site, you will want to submit the "New to State (Grade 12 Only)" not tested reason to ensure they do not count against your school's test participation rate.

3. Does a senior new to a school this year have to test if they only received partial scores on the high school assessment during their junior year in their former school?

A: No. This student would have counted in accountability calculations at their former school as a junior. The student can elect to take the high school assessments as a senior if they are a first-time tester or if they took the assessment and did not receive valid scores in all MME subject areas as a junior. If they retake the test, their scores and participation will not be used in accountability calculations.

4. Is a fifth-year senior required to take the high school assessments?

A: No, unless he/she has not yet counted in accountability calculations. Schools may search the [OEAA Secure Site](#) to check a student's test history.

5. Does a senior who attended school in another country as a foreign exchange student during their junior year need to take the high school assessments?

A: Yes. A senior is required to test if they have not previously been tested or counted in accountability calculations while in grades 11 or 12.

6. Do students enrolled as foreign exchange students from other countries need to take the high school assessments?

A: Yes, if a school enrolls a foreign exchange student in 11th grade. All grade 11 students will be expected to test and count in accountability calculations. If a school enrolls a foreign exchange student in 12th grade, that student is **NOT** expected to test.

7. Does a senior who is new to a school and was enrolled in a private school or homeschooled in previous years have to test?

A: No. This student is encouraged, but not required, to test. The student will not be considered in accountability calculations.

8. Does a private school or homeschooled student who is partially enrolled at a school need to test?

A: No. Students who are enrolled in a public school for less than a full FTE do not need to test if the correct residency is reported. Schools should make sure that these students are reported in the [Michigan Student Data System \(MSDS\)](#) with the proper Student Residency characteristic ("homeschooled" or "non-public school" student).

9. How and when do Early Middle College (EMC) students test in high school?

A: Early Middle College (EMC) students are those on a 5-year course of study, graduating upon successful completion of their 5th year of high school with both a high school diploma and one or more of the following: 60 transferable college credits, an associate degree, a professional

certification, a Michigan Early Middle College Association (MEMCA) technical certificate, and/or participation in a registered apprenticeship. EMC students are expected to be reported using a standard grade progression of 9, 10, 11, 12, 12—repeating the reporting of grade 12 as the student's 5th year of high school. EMC students are expected to test at the same point in their trajectory as traditional high school students—taking the MME in their 11th grade year (3rd year of high school). Following the standard grade progression and testing policies ensure that students in one or more EMC programs aren't systematically given an unfair advantage in their administration of the MME by potentially receiving higher scores for having their EMC students wait to take the MME in their 4th or 5th year.

10. Are 9th and 10th grade PSAT tests required and/or included in accountability calculations?

A: This document seeks to clarify questions around the 11th grade assessment requirement, however [state law](#) requires that schools also administer the statewide summative assessment in grades 9 and 10. The PSAT serves as the statewide summative assessment for grades 9 and 10. While the PSAT is required to be administered in grades 9 and 10 when appropriate, since there are no alternate assessments for these grades, they are not included in school accountability calculations or school accountability reporting.